

REMARKS

Claims 14-15 and 19-20 were rejected as unpatentable over BANAEI 2004/0203751 in view of BAHL et al. 7,149,896. Claims 16 and 21 were rejected as unpatentable further in view of LABUN et al. 6,842,621 and claims 17-18 and 22-23 were rejected as unpatentable further in view of KOSTIC et al. 2003/0134642. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 14-15 define a method and system of wireless LAN communication wherein a user terminal communicates on the internet through a wireless LAN base station and one of plural service providers contracted with the user of the user terminal. The wireless LAN base station is in shopping center managed by a manager. The wireless LAN base station is shared by the plural service providers that connect to the internet. A charge is calculated for usage of the wireless LAN base station by the user terminal, and the one of the plural service providers contracted with the user pays the charge to the manager. That is, the user terminal communicates on the internet through both the wireless LAN base station and the service provider and the service provider pays the manager (that manages the shopping center with the base station) the charge for this communication.

By way of background, the invention of claims 14-15 facilitates wireless communication in a shopping center with plural stores, where the stores use different service providers

for their respective internet connections. The shopping center establishes a wireless LAN base station that is shared by the stores (i.e., by the respective service providers) so that the stores do not have to invest in the equipment necessary to establish their own wireless LAN base stations (Figure 1).

The combination of BANAEI and BAHL et al. does not disclose this method and system. While BAHL et al. discloses a base station in a shopping mall, the combination does not describe collecting data of a communication amount and communication time of the user terminal when the user terminal communicates on the internet through the wireless LAN base station and a one of the plural service providers contracted with a user of the user terminal, wherein the one of the plural service providers pays the charge for usage of the wireless LAN base station to the manager.

BANAEI disclose a system where an end user contracts with a home service provider and communicates on the internet through a visited service provider who has a peer-to-peer arrangement with the home service provider. The home service provider pays the visited service provider for the communication between the end user and the visited service provider (paragraphs 0037, 0041, 0044, 0045). That is, in contrast to claim 14 the internet communication in BANAEI is through the visited service provider (that corresponds to the claimed one of plural service providers), and not through the home service provider (that

corresponds to the claimed base station). In further contrast to claim 14, the payment for the communication in BANAEI is made by the home service provider to the visited service provider, not the other way around as claimed. BAHL et al. do not disclose a modification that would cause the artisan to change these features of BANAEI.

In addition, BAHL et al. describe on column 12, lines 33-39 that a shopping mall owner has one or more access points 306 (base stations) and a user establishes a wireless communication link with the access points 306. However, this description does not show a correlation between the access points 306 (base stations) and plural service providers. In particular, such a scheme is not disclosed and suggested by BAHL et al. that a charge for usage of the wireless LAN base station (that is shared by plural service provider) is calculated based on the frequency of usage (communication amount and communication time) of the wireless LAN base station each the service providers and thus, the service providers pay the charge to the manager. From this, a combination of the base station of BAHL et al. and the technique of BANAEI would not result in the claimed invention. Thus, applicants are of the opinion that the claimed invention is patentable over the cited references.

Accordingly, amended claims 14-15 avoid the rejection under §103. Claims 16-18 depend from claim 15 and are allowable therewith for the reasons set forth above.

Claims 19-20 include limitations similar to those of claims 14-15 and are allowable for similar reasons. The combination of BANAEI and BAHL et al. does not describe collecting data of a communication amount and communication time of the user terminal when the user terminal communicates on the internet through the wireless LAN base station and a one of the plural service providers contracted with a user of the user terminal, wherein the one of the plural service providers pays the charge for usage of the wireless LAN base station to the manager.

Accordingly, amended claims 19-20 avoid the rejection under §103. Claims 21-23 depend from claim 20 and are allowable therewith for the reasons set forth above.

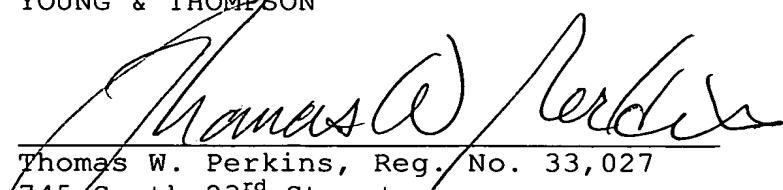
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON


Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

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